

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to provide appropriate headings for the various sections of the application. In addition the reference numeral 136' on page 20 has been changed to 236' since reference numeral 136' was not in the drawings as noted by the Examiner.

Additionally the trademark VELCRO has been corrected on page 20.

A substitute Abstract has also been provided.

In the last Office Action the Examiner required that the exploded views in figures 14 and 15 required brackets. It is proposed to add brackets to these figures as well as figures 6 and 7 which are also exploded views. Finally it is proposed to add the lead line for the reference numeral 5 in figure 21.

In the last Office Action claims 4, 6, 9, 11-15 were objected to and claims 1-17 inclusive were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunstler (German patent 93 01 769) in view of Chanteur (French patent 27 54 929). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunstler in view of Chanteur and further in view of common knowledge in the art. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunstler in view of Chanteur and further in view of USP 5,798,861 to Doat. Claims 8-15 inclusive were indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-17 inclusive have been canceled without prejudice in order to advance the prosecution of the present application and new claims 18-35 inclusive have been substituted therefore. The newly submitted are believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are considered patentable over the references relied upon in the last Office

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
USSN 09/700,258  
Attorney Docket Q61663

Action taken either alone or in combination with each other. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

New independent claim 18 is directed to a presentation device comprising a base, a flexible stand plugged into the base and holding means for holding a presentation carrier between the stand and the base. The flexible stand comprises two uprights each formed of flexible bars plugged together and at least two transverse struts plugged to the flexible bars of the uprights and connecting the uprights in a double H-shape.

Kunstler discloses a display device where two integral upright flexible bars (1) are connected to a base 4 by plugging into tubes 7 on the base. A crossmember 3 having depressions 23 is fixed to the upright bars by means of nuts 21 and threaded pins which are fixed to the ring members 18 which may be displaced along the bars 1 and fixed in a final longitudinal position by means of set screws 19. Such a presentation is cumbersome with respect to assembling and packaging since the long bars 1 cause a relatively large bulky packaging unit. The present invention on the other hand is constructed in such a manner that it can be assembled simply and without the aid of tools as well as disassembled with the parts of the device in a shipping state which may be conveniently packaged as a small compact unit. Furthermore all of the components of the presentation device of the present invention are plugged together without the use of any tools whatsoever and at least two transverse crossmembers are provided which are plugged into the flexible bars of the uprights to form a double H shape.

Chanteur discloses a single upright comprised of several shorter bars 23, 24 and 25 which are connected by plug-in connections where sleeves 26, 27 are used. An elastic cord 19 is

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
USSN 09/700,258  
Attorney Docket Q61663


provided within the hollow bars with the elastic cord being tensioned in operation to stabilize several bars which are plugged together and to further stabilize the connection with a cross brace 29 which is provided in addition to ensure higher stability. In spite of this the notice 2 is not supported in a properly tensioned plane fashion since the vertical edge zones may be undulating in practice and the notice is capable of twisting about the upright central axis defined by the points 5' and 8'.

In view of the foregoing discussion of the references it is clear that one skilled in the art would not be motivated or even remotely consider combining the different patents in the manner proposed by the Examiner in the last Office Action. There are no transverse crossmembers disclosed by Chanteur and accordingly there is nothing to suggest a plug-in connection for the cross-members of Kunstler. Furthermore the provision of the elastic cord would be incompatible with the H-shape shown by Kunstler. There is absolutely no suggestion in either reference of a double H-shaped structure which provides greater stability and strength of the stand. Therefore it is submitted that the present invention as defined in claim 18 and the claims dependent therefrom would not be obvious in view of the teachings of Kunstler and Chanteur taken either alone or in combination with each other. Therefore it is respectfully requested that claims 18-35 inclusive be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
USSN 09/700,258  
Attorney Docket Q61663

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**The specification is changed as follows:**

Page 1, after the title insert the heading

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Page 2, after the second paragraph insert the heading

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Page 9, after the first full paragraph insert the heading

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Page 11, after the description of figure 23 insert the heading

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Page 20, amend the first full paragraph as follows:

--Figure 20 illustrates this region of connection of the lower transverse bar 4 and in each case of the two middle longitudinal bars 3 by plugging into the combined T-Y-pieces 36' and attachment to the lower bars 3, Figure 20 showing two somewhat different coupling pieces 136 and 4236', with the upper plug bushes being offset relative to one another.--

Page 20, amend the paragraph at the bottom of the page as follows:

--Figure 22 also illustrates diagrammatically, in several places 48, that the presentation carriers 6 can be connected to one another additionally, for example via touch-and-close fastening tapes (~~Velcro~~ VELCRO tapes) or via magnetic fastening means, in order thereby additionally to secure the uniform presentation surface. Of course, the connection, instead of

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
USSN 09/700,258  
Attorney Docket Q61663

being made in individual discrete places 48, may also be made over the entire height of the two presentation carriers 6, for example by means of a touch-and-close fastening.--

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Copies of the sheets of drawings containing figures 6, 7, 14, 15 and 21 are submitted herewith showing proposed changes in red for approval.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 1-17 inclusive are canceled.**

**Claims 18-35 are added as new claims.**

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:**

**Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure found on the attached unnumbered sheet.**

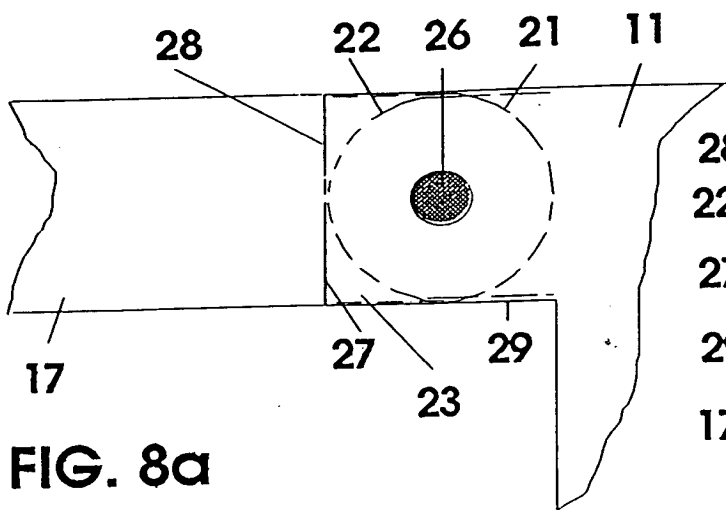


FIG. 8a

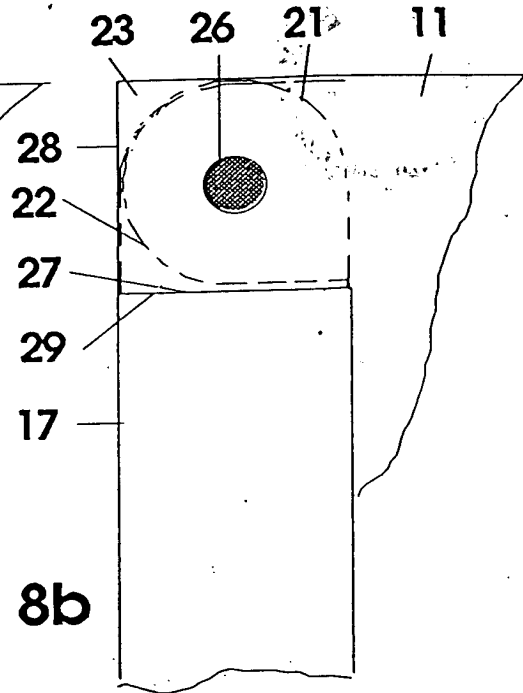


FIG. 8b

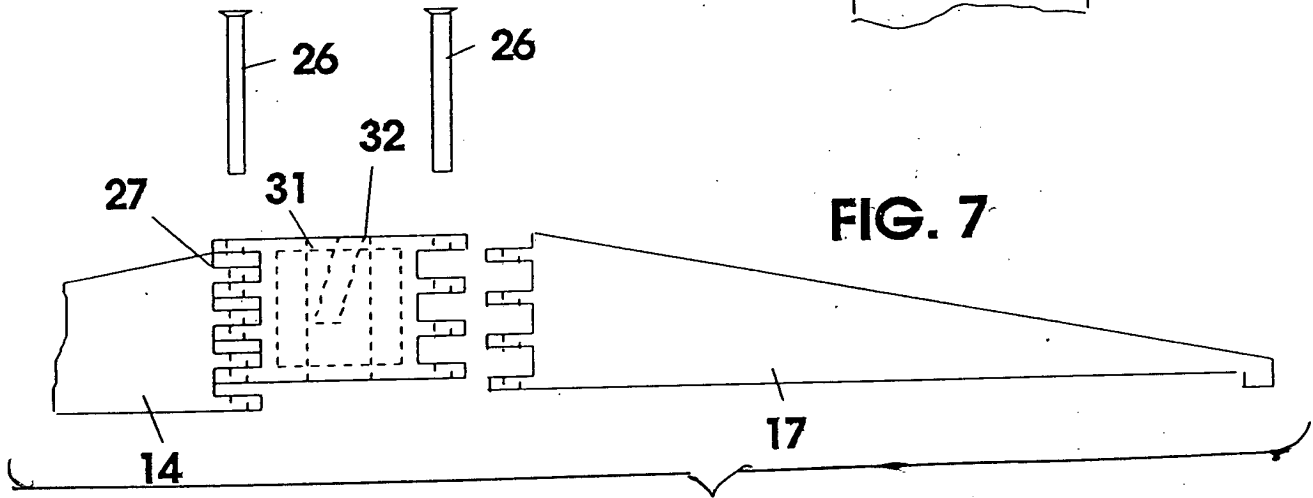


FIG. 7

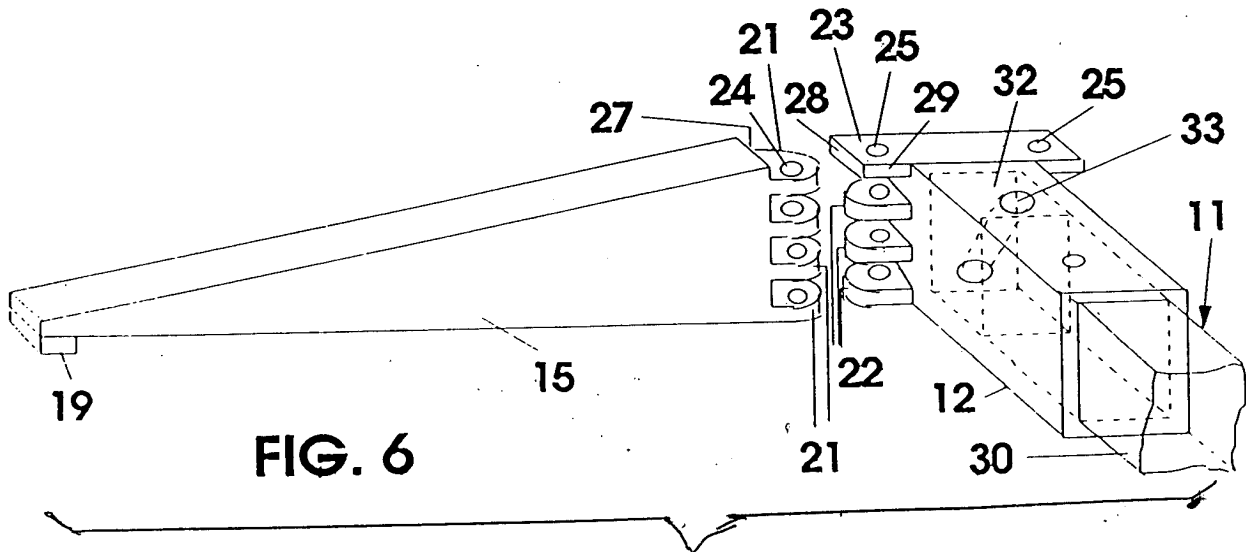


FIG. 6

Approved for Entry  
6/20/02  
DMB

FIG. 14

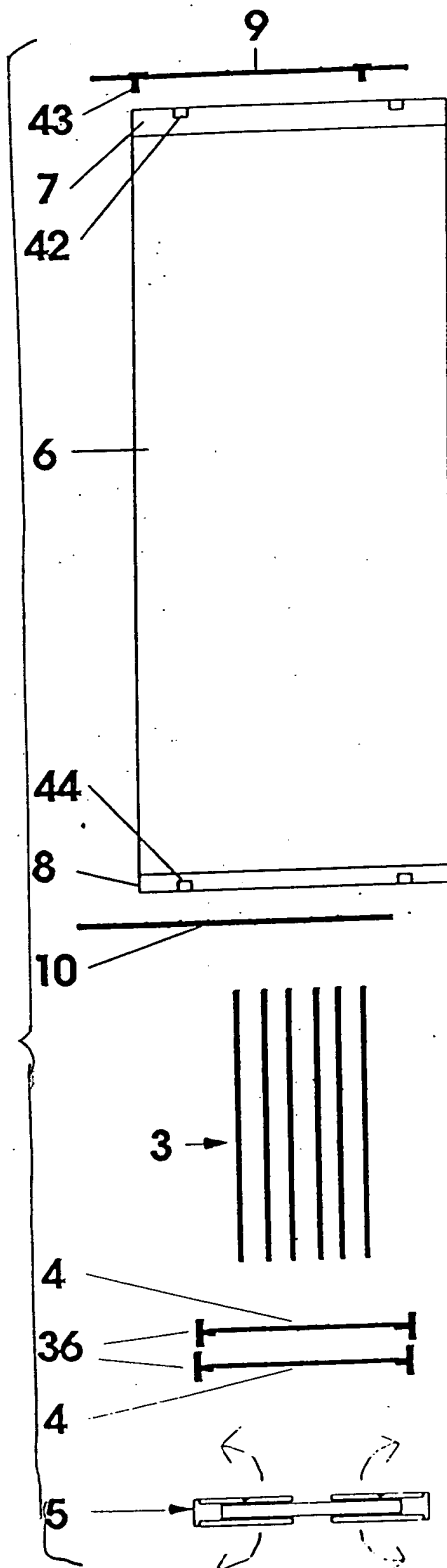


FIG. 15

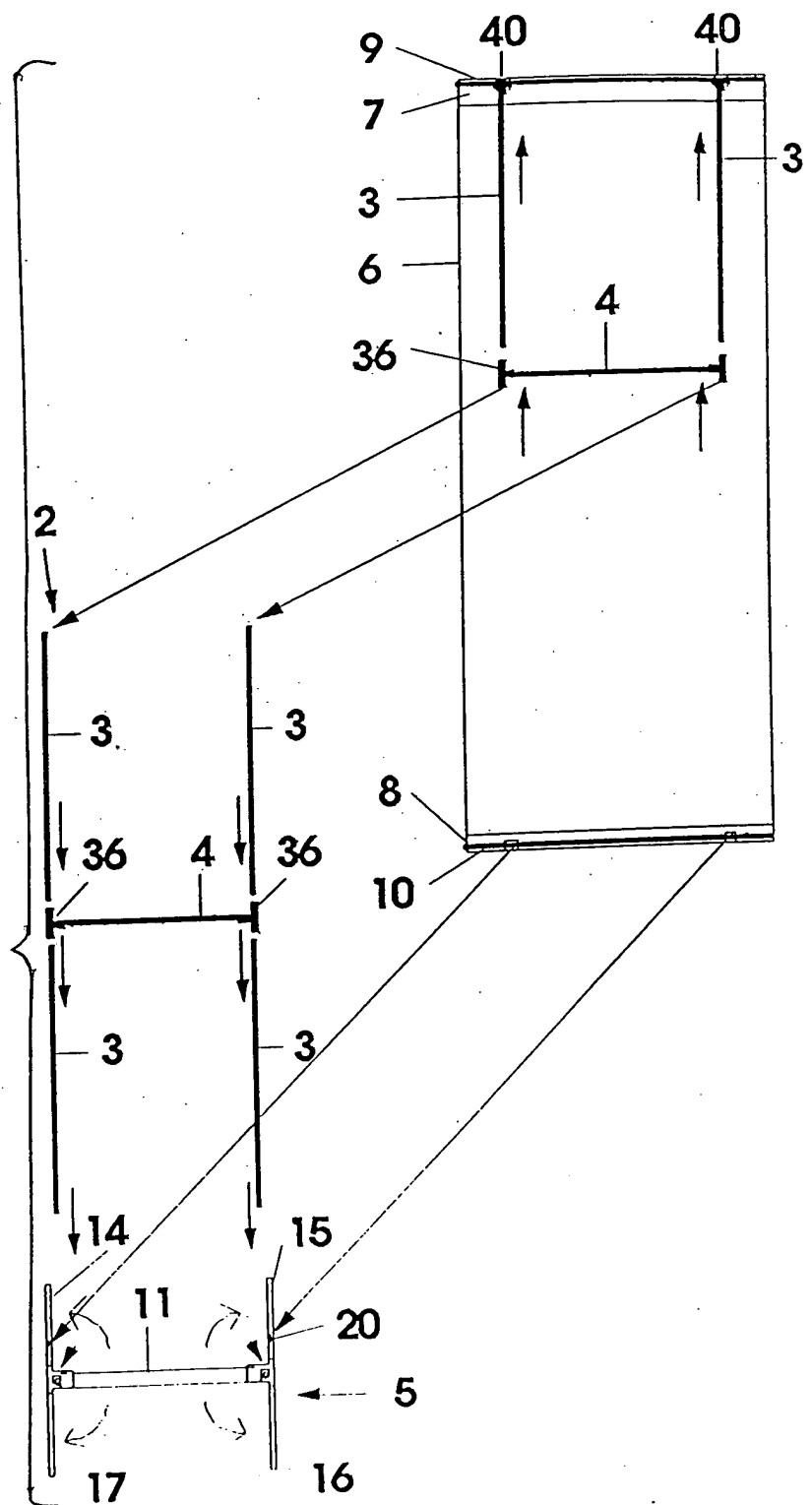




FIG. 21

